

APPENDIX A

(clean version to amended Claims 1, 5, 10 and 13 and new Claims 17-20)

1. (Amended) A method for embossing a fibrous web incorporating recycled pulp containing contaminants to improve the bulk and softness of the web by passing the web through a nip formed by a pair of rotating rollers, wherein the contaminants will not damage the rollers, the method comprising:
- a) providing a first embossing roller having an outer surface, said outer surface having a plurality of male protuberances thereon corresponding to a desired embossed pattern;
 - b) providing a second embossing roll having an outer surface having a plurality of female recessed portions which are matched to the male protuberances of the first roll;
 - c) wherein one of said first and second embossing rollers has a Shore A hardness of 40-65 and the other roller has a Shore A hardness of at least about 90; and
 - d) placing the rolls in contact to form a nip between the rolls, with the protuberances of the first roll entering the recesses of the second roll as the rolls rotate together; and passing a fibrous web through the nip formed by the rolls to emboss the web wherein the roller having the Shore A hardness of 40-65 will deform if any contaminants are encountered in the fibrous web such that a fibrous web including recycled pulp containing contaminants may be embossed without causing excess wear or damage to the embossing rollers.
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5. (Amended) Apparatus for embossing a fibrous web incorporating recycled pulp containing contaminants so that the contaminants will not damage the rollers, comprising:

- a) a first rotating embossing roller having an outer surface, said outer surface having a plurality of male protuberances thereon corresponding to a desired embossed pattern;
- b) a second rotating embossing roller having an outer surface having a plurality of female recessed portions which are matched to the male protuberances of the first roller;
- c) wherein one of said first and second embossing rollers have differing hardnesses; and
- d) wherein the first and second rollers are disposed to form a nip between the rolls, with the protuberances of the first roll entering the recesses of the second roll as the rolls rotate together; to permit the fibrous web through the nip formed by the rollers, wherein the roller having the lesser hardness will deform upon contact with a contaminant in the fibrous web wherein one of said first and second embossing rollers has a Shore hardness of 40-65 and the other roller has a Shore A hardness of at least about 95 such that a fibrous web including recycled pulp containing contaminants may be embossed without causing excess wear or damage to the embossing rollers.

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 (concluded)

10. (Amended) A method to update paper embossing machinery having matched pairs of embossing rollers to enable the machinery to accommodate recycled pulp that contains contaminants, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a embossing roller comprising material having a Shore A hardness of 40-65;
- b) utilizing one of each pair of embossing rollers to produce a matched opposite roller from the embossing roller of material having a Shore A hardness of 40-65; and
- c) replacing one of each matched pair of embossing rollers with the roller produced from material having a Shore A hardness of 40-65 such that a fibrous web including

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recycled pulp containing contaminants may be embossed without causing excess wear or damage to the embossing rollers.

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(concluded)

13. (Amended) A method for embossing a fibrous web incorporating recycled pulp containing contaminants to improve the bulk and softness of the web by passing the web through a nip formed by a pair of rotating rollers, wherein the contaminants will not damage the rollers, the method comprising:

- a) providing a first embossing roller having an outer surface, said outer surface having a plurality of male protuberances thereon corresponding to a desired embossed pattern;
- b) providing a second embossing roll having an outer surface having a plurality of female recessed portions which are matched to the male protuberances of the first roll;
- c) wherein at least one of said first and second embossing rollers is a laser engraved roller and has a Shore A hardness of from about 40 to about 65; and
- d) placing the rolls in contact to form a nip between the rolls, with the protuberances of the first roll entering the recesses of the second roll as the rolls rotate together; and passing a fibrous web through the nip formed by the rolls to emboss the web wherein the roller having the Shore A hardness of from about 40 to about 65 will deform if any contaminants are encountered in the fibrous web such that a fibrous web including recycled pulp containing contaminants may be embossed without causing excess wear or damage to the embossing rollers.

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17. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the contaminants in the recycled pulp include stickies.

18. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the apparatus is thereby adapted to emboss a web including recycled pulp containing stickies.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the recycled pulp contains stickies.

20. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the recycled pulp contains stickies.

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(concluded)